

**TO: Honorable Sen. Beth Bye and Rep. Toni Walker,
And the Members of the Appropriations Committee**

Testimony in **FAVOR** of **SB816**

An Act Establishing a Minimum Level of Funding Under the Education Cost Sharing Grant Formula

Thursday, April 2, 2015

A fair and equitable education for all is one of the most important responsibilities of education and should not be taken lightly.

With respect to the ECS formula, Haddam is significantly underfunded by the formula receiving only 42% of the amount required by the formula .

Haddam is continually facing the additional burden of either raising more tax revenue by taxing at a higher rate or go without, making it much harder to adequately fund both our schools and town government.

In addition, Haddam is at a disadvantage in competing for new businesses because of the resulting higher mill rate.

When our biggest taxpayer Connecticut Yankee Nuclear Power Plant shut down permanently over 15 years ago, our grand list dropped dramatically but our ECS allocation was never adjusted upward for that loss. Haddam is being funded as if the power plant was still in operation.

Our children and residents should not be penalized when something beyond their control occurs that causes the grand list to drop so drastically and the ECS formula does not take that dramatic drop into account.

This bill will be the first step in getting the ECS funding formula back on track and will show the people of Connecticut you truly intend to make the system fair once again.

Thank you for taking the time to discuss this important issue.

Sincerely,

Wayne LePard

445 Brainard Hill Road

Haddam Ct. 06441